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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

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VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **May 2014**

Field Day 2014 – June 28th – 29th

One hundred years ago, the population of the United States had not quite reached 100 million. There were only forty-eight stars on the US flag, the last one (Arizona) having only been added two years earlier... The number of automobiles registered in the US was just pushing 500,000... The right to vote for women was still six years away... The cost of an average home in the US was about $6,000 and the annual average wage was about $540... Coffee was about 30<ˆ a pound, Sugar was about 9<ˆ a pound, Milk was about 11<ˆ a quart, Bread about 9<ˆ a loaf and a Sirloin Steak would set you back about 33<ˆ a pound.

What a difference a century makes!

Things have really changed in the 21st Century. However, one thing that has remained a constant is the natural curiosity of humankind. It was from that curiosity in 1914 that Hiram Percy Maxim and Clarence D. Tuska met, forged a friendship and founded the American Radio Relay League – the ARRL.

One hundred years later Amateur Radio is still going strong - new technologies... new bands... new countries. ... There is always a new challenge in Amateur Radio. Nowhere does the Amateur Community embrace our hobby more than ARRL Field Day. What started as a one-time test of portable operation has grown to become the largest single operating event in the United States. Field Day is our annual opportunity to tell our story and invite

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VVRC Meeting Notes

Several members were joined by two of our XYLs - Anne Bowen and Barb Lawson, for a pleasant dinner at the Yen King Chinese restaurant prior to the regular monthly meeting of the VVRC.

The group then moved to the Elmira fire station where President Mike Vieira – N6MAV, called the April meeting to order at 19:10 hr. After briefly reviewing the Secretary's notes from the March meeting, his first order of business was to call for a motion to accept the Secretary's minutes as published in the newsletter. A motion was proposed by VP Jerry Olive – KD6WKY, seconded, and accepted.

There was no Treasurer's report because he had been away on business.

Jerry reminded the membership that there would be a VE test session the FIRST SATURDAY in June – that's 7 June, at his State Farm Office in Fairfield. If you or someone you know is looking to test or upgrade, this is the target date to aim for!

Jerry then briefly reviewed the upcoming Field Day: The Vidal's have offered to allow us to set up our station on their property out in English Hills this year. We presently have a well-proven, full station ready to go, however, once again Jerry mentioned that if you have an antenna or other piece of gear that you're familiar with and would like to see how it plays in a field environment, contact him beforehand to coordinate setting it up and operating it.

It has been suggested by some that we should have a BBQ while we're out there, so if you're a BBQ Chief, or are willing to head up that part of the event, please contact Jerry, Mike, or Skip. You will be our hero!

Our new PR "*go to person*", Frank - KJ6RWQ, will be handling the PR and local media info for Field Day this year.

If you're new to all this "*Field Day*" stuff and would like to learn more about it, there a LOT of good

Continued on Page 2

President's Message from pg-1..Cont

our friends, neighbors and communities to discover and share in our passion.

There are no new rules for ARRL Field Day. Remember that in 2013 the rules were adjusted to allow more flexibility in the station set-up time-up. In addition, do not forget the ability to submit your summary data using the www.b4h.net/cabforms website. This provides an easy way for you to get your essential information into the ARRL for processing. Also, remember that Field Day will be a great opportunity to participate in the yearlong ARRL Centennial QSO Party. Look for ARRL affiliated club stations, members, headquarters staff and volunteers on the air for QSO Party points. Finally, as an added attraction, look for W1AW/3 in Maryland and W1AW/9 in Illinois as part of the Worked W1AW in All States Award during Field Day 2014.

A lot has changed since the first time "The Old Man" and his cohorts started their lifelong affair with the "mistress" we call Amateur Radio. The coffee you consume from Starbucks will run you a couple of dollars a cup and the steaks for the annual BBQ will be more in the range of $14 a pound. However, just remember, there is no price tag on the fun, friendship or knowledge that you will accumulate during ARRL Field Day 2014. See you on the air!

Mike W6MAV 73
(ARRL)

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Mike Vieria, W6MAV
Vice President: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Meeting notes from pg-1..Cont

information free for the reading on the ARRL website – www.arrl.org

We will be fine-tuning the Field Day details at the May meeting, so if you're interested in helping make this event a ***successful and FUN club event***, plan to be at the May meeting!

Mike mentioned that he's been working with Chief Woods, and there's a chance that we might be back in the Vine St. station by Fall…. stay tuned for more details!

And last but not least: Jerry and Skip finished out the evening by including the membership in a hands-on demo of Jerry's *YP-3* Portable Yagi - *SuperAntenna*. If you missed it, let me tell you — that's one incredible antenna! It's a light weight, VERY portable 3 element Yagi gain array antenna designed to handle 500W SSB / 300W CW, on 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m, and 6m, and is quickly configurable in the field. The whole thing breaks down and fits into a padded bag just 3 ft. long. A single operator who knows what he's doing can go from "*in the bag*" to "*on the air*" in less than 30 minutes!

OK, hope to see you all at the May meeting!!

Respectfully submitted,
"Skip" Lawson – AF6HC

A Nice Contact for Skip

WØS
Special Event Station

We've Built the Titanic
Titanic
WORLD'S LARGEST MUSEUM ATTRACTION

Confirming QSO with: AF6HC

Date	UTC	Band	Mode	
4/12/2014	1550	18.0	SSB	5/9+

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The Wireman

ARRL Field Day
June 28-29, 2014
Amateur Radio's most popular on-air operating event!
ARRLFD14
HAM RADIO
On the Air from Anywhere!
Show your support for ARRL Field Day with official merchandise. Shirts, hats, pins, patches and mugs available now!

The 2014 ARRL Field Day
Jerry Olive, KD6KDY

The 2014 ARRL Field Day is approaching soon and looks to be a fun one for our club. The location of our portable Field Day station will be the home QTH of Jorge and Maria Vidal over on English Hills Road.

The site address is 7828 English Hills Road, Vacaville, CA 95688. I have done a thorough reconnoiter of the property keeping shade, open space for antennas, parking, and accessibility at the top of the list for everyone.

We'll be finalizing details at the next meeting for who brings what, but the plan as I see it is for me to set up my portable HF station as a base. Club member should bring their antennas, radios, and other amateur radio gear to use and compare.

The idea is to have a working station up and running at the start of Field Day. You set up your favorite antenna and bring it on line for a spin to see how well it works. Same thing with any other gear you bring along. My 1KW generator can handle anything you bring.

A word of caution – It would be wise of you to take the time and set up your antennas and gear prior to Field Day to test them and understand them thoroughly to both save time and be safe. We don't want an antenna mast falling on anybody or anything, we also don't want to fry a radio. Go set your gear up at a local park on a Saturday afternoon with a friend and make all the mistakes you can, then take notes, correct the mistakes, and set it up. This is important.

The intent of Field Day is to have fun, it's not a contest. To make the event fun I am going to need volunteers for the following duties:

1 .Barbeque Chef which includes purchasing the supplies, the club will reimburse the expenses. A grill will be provided.

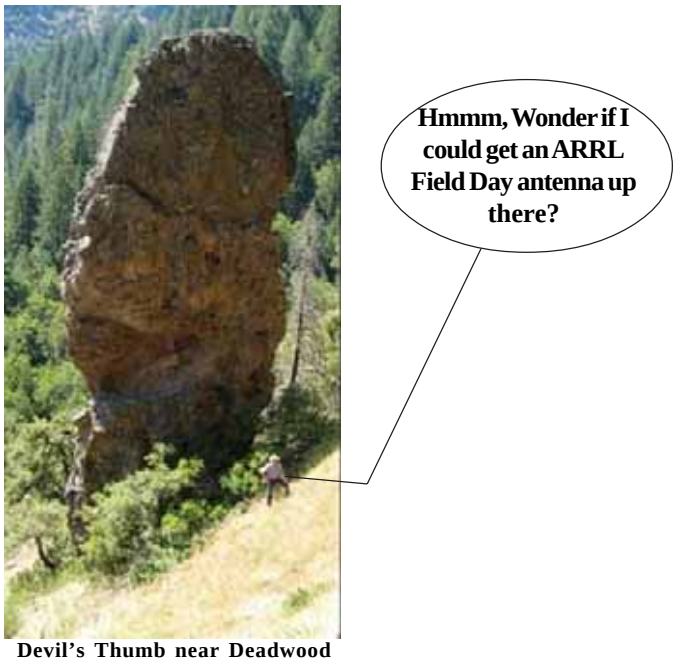
2. Publicity Coordinator who will contact local media following the Field Day rules.

3. Operators for the radio that is on the air. Everyone has to make at least one QSO!

4. Clean up crew. We want to make the Vidal property cleaner than when we arrived.

I will be facilitating an unsponsored amateur radio licensing exam on Saturday, June 7. I will invite everyone that tests to come out to Field Day. Be sure to tell all your friends!

Lastly, if someone wanted to coordinate a test session at Field Day, we could to that as well.



Devil's Thumb near Deadwood Ghost Town off of Foresthill Road.

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

THE BIT BUCKET
HF Field Beam Antenna Assembly 04.10.14

Check out the Vaca Valley Radio Club meeting where we assembled an HF Field Antenna in preparation for the upcoming 2014 Field Day!

The April 10, 2014 meeting started on time with a great turn out. President Mike Vieira W6MAV took quick control of the meeting and we were off and running. The meetings have been very informational lately with special guests showing up and demonstrations.

This meeting was no different. Our Vice President Jerry Olive KD6WKY showed up with an HF Field Bean Antenna that we will be using at this years 2014 ARRL Field Day. He helped us all participate in putting it together. Then after we had it assembled, Brian Hagen KK6BXP took the time to explain to us how it actually works.

We've published our first blog post! It's a recap video from last nights club meeting so check it out and share it on your social sites!

Check out the Vaca Valley Radio Club meeting where we assembled an HF Field Antenna in preparation for the upcomming 2014 Field Day at:

HF Field Bean Antenna Assembly 04.10.14

Tune in and enjoy the show & have an awesome day!

Frank Garay KJ6RWQ
Social Media Director
Vaca Valley Radio Club

From the Editor

I have to apologize for this issue being a few days late.

At this time of the year I have to spend a lot of time and effort preparing my property for the fire season removing dead trees, splitting and stacking firewood and clearing a fire hazard area

To make things worse I've had several computer problems that I'm still correcting now.

Jerry, KJ6SCC

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Chris Jones; KD7TQO
4th week of month-Marcus MacLean; KI6WDX
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

A little Reminder

If you would like to chat on-line about the VVRC, go to our new Twitter account @w6vvr and chat away.

Also we have a Facebook account, just go to Facebook and search for w6vvr and there you are.

One other thing is we also have a "blog", that's right a "blog", just do a Google search for Vaca Valley Radio Club Blog and enter your email address to follow all the comments. We are now in the 21st Century thanks to Frank KJ6EWQ our media guru guy.

Thanks to everyone for making this a great club,

Mike; W6MAV

Experts warn civilian world not ready for massive EMP-caused blackout

By Josh Peterson, April 21, 2014, watchdog.org

The catastrophic effects of an electromagnetic pulse-caused blackout could be preventable, but experts warn the civilian world is still not ready.

Peter Vincent Pry, executive director of the Task Force on National and Homeland Security and director of the U.S. Nuclear Strategy Forum, both congressional advisory boards, said the technology to avoid disaster from electromagnetic pulses exists, and upgrading the nation's electrical grid is financially viable.

"The problem is not the technology," Pry said. "We know how to protect against it. It's not the money, it doesn't cost that much. The problem is the politics. It always seems to be the politics that gets in the way."

He said the more officials plan, the lower the estimated cost gets.

"If you do a smart plan - the Congressional EMP Commission estimated that you could protect the whole country for about $2 billion," Pry told Watchdog.org. "That's what we give away in foreign aid to Pakistan every year."

In the first few minutes of an EMP, nearly half a million people would die. That's the worst-case scenario that author William R. Forstchen estimated in 2011 would be the result of an EMP on the electric grid - whether by

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an act of God, solar flare, large meteor or a nuclear missile detonating in Earth's upper atmosphere.

An electromagnetic pulse is a burst of electromagnetic energy strong enough to disable, and even destroy, nearby electronic devices.

SO....

What does the above have to do with us?

Jerry, KJ6SCC

The sun erupted with a massive solar flare late Thursday (April 24), and ranked as an X1.3-class solar storm, triggering a temporary communications blackout on some parts of Earth.

Scientists classify solar flares according to their x-ray brightness in the wavelength range 1 to 8 Angstroms. There are 3 categories:

X-class flares are big; they are major events that can trigger planet-wide radio blackouts and long-lasting radiation storms. X-class flares top the scale with the most energy and potential to disrupt communications on Earth. The most powerful X-class flares can also affect power grids; destroy modern electronic equipment and other infrastructure on the Earth.

M-class flares are medium-sized; they can cause brief radio blackouts that affect Earth's Polar Regions. Minor radiation storms sometimes follow an M-class flare. Compared to X- and M-class events,

C-class flares are small with few noticeable consequences here on Earth.

America's power grid at the limit and is on the road to electrical blackouts.

The catastrophic effects of an electromagnetic pulse-caused blackout could be preventable, but experts warn the civilian world is still not ready.

Steve Goreham, Executive Director, Climate Science Coalition says, "Americans take electricity for granted. It powers our lights, our computers, our offices, and our industries. But misguided environmental policies are eroding the reliability of our power system."

"The problem is not the technology," Pry said. "We know how to protect against it. It's not the money, it doesn't cost that much. The problem is the politics. It always seems to be the politics that gets in the way."

IT'S STOPPABLE: Peter Vincent Pry says technology exists to protect against the damage from electromagnetic pulses.

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He said the more officials plan, the lower the estimated cost gets.

"If you do a smart plan — the Congressional EMP Commission estimated that you could protect the whole country for about $2 billion," Pry told Watchdog.org. "That's what we give away in foreign aid to Pakistan every year."

Unfortunately, congress doesn't seem to be paying much attention. Too often our politicians only react after the fact!

In the August 2013 issue of the VVR Newsletter Skip, AF6HC, led me on to a video a video describing a method of protecting our valuable radio gear from EMP's.

What with the number of meteors and threats of atomic warfare, and solar flares hitting the earth, any of which could cause a major destructive EMP, it just may be a *"the sky is falling"* type of worry but it doesn't hurt to be somewhat prepared for the worst.

With that in mind, I recently came across another video that makes the process of protecting equipment much simpler using aluminum foil.

He does an experiment in the video that goes a long way to prove his method works.

Part2 - EMP Protection Faraday Cage for $15

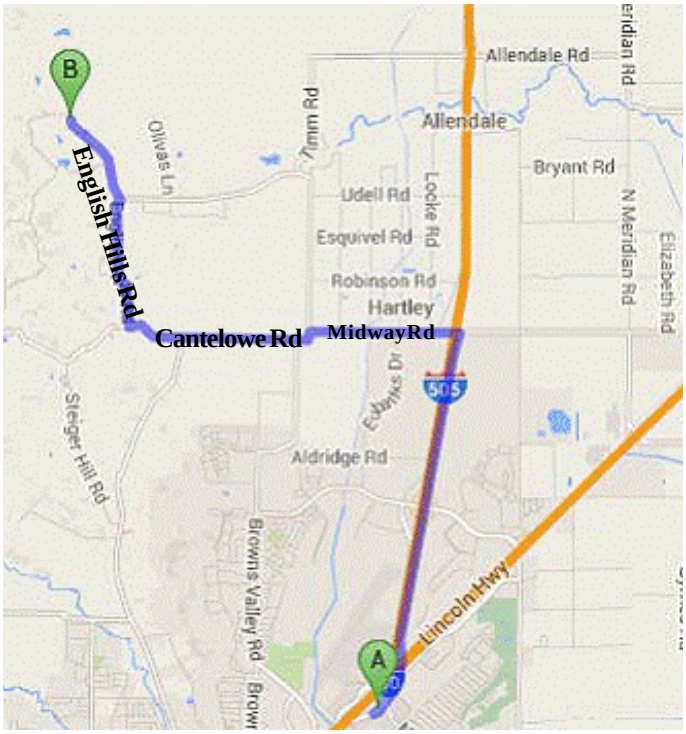
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqZmac2Bg5M

Pollitical Correctness Unleased Kennedy Goofed

Early in his career as a senator, John F. Kennedy began a speech at a Democratic convention: "I was almost late here today, but I had a very good taxi driver who brought me through the traffic jam. I was going to give him a very large tip and tell him to vote Democrat, and then I remembered some advice Senator Green had given me. So I gave him no tip at all, and told him to vote Republican."

Associated Press ran the story, and Kennedy received dozens of angry letters from cab drivers — as a result of which he had to persuade Associated Press to print another story explaining it was supposed to be a joke.

7828 English Hills Road, Vacaville



Directions to Field Day Site

1. Head north on I-505 from I-80
2. Take the Midway Rd exit
3. Turn left onto Midway Rd
4. Turn Left onto Timm Rd
5. Road curves right onto Cantelowe Rd
6. Continue on Cantelowe Rd.
7. After curving right around the Fire dept Station the road curves left
8. Turn right onto English Hills Rd
9. Go left at the intersection of English Hills Road and Peaceful Glen Road
10 Continue on English Hills Road
11. Destination will be approximately .9 miles on the right

7828 English Hills Road, Vacaville

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street:
_____

City: _____Zip:
_____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail
Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____
Optional ARRL membership		
ARRL dues	$37.00	
Total		_____

Paid by CASH: Check # _____

DATE: _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143